



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6584

LCO No. 3866

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Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT HERITAGE AREAS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 section 2 of this act and section 16a-27 of the general statutes, as
3 amended by this act, "Connecticut Heritage Area" means a place
4 within the state that has been identified by the General Assembly as
5 having significant historic, recreational, cultural, natural and scenic
6 resources that form an important part of the state's heritage.

7 (b) There is established a Connecticut Heritage Areas program to
8 recognize and protect Connecticut Heritage Areas. Under said
9 program, each state agency, department, board and commission (1)
10 shall consider Connecticut Heritage Areas when developing planning
11 documents and processes, and (2) may partner with the managing
12 entities of such areas on projects concerning, but not limited to,
13 environmental protection, heritage resource preservation, recreation,
14 tourism and trail development.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The General Assembly

16 recognizes two Connecticut Heritage Areas: (1) The Quinebog and
17 Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, and (2) the Upper
18 Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

19 Sec. 3. Section 16a-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

21 (a) The secretary, after consultation with all appropriate state,
22 regional and local agencies and other appropriate persons, shall prior
23 to March 1, 2009, complete a revision of the existing plan and enlarge it
24 to include, but not be limited to, policies relating to transportation,
25 energy and air. Any revision made after May 15, 1991, shall identify
26 the major transportation proposals, including proposals for mass
27 transit, contained in the master transportation plan prepared pursuant
28 to section 13b-15. Any revision made after July 1, 1995, shall take into
29 consideration the conservation and development of greenways that
30 have been designated by municipalities and shall recommend that
31 state agencies coordinate their efforts to support the development of a
32 state-wide greenways system. The Commissioner of Environmental
33 Protection shall identify state-owned land for inclusion in the plan as
34 potential components of a state greenways system.

35 (b) Any revision made after August 20, 2003, shall take into account
36 (1) economic and community development needs and patterns of
37 commerce, and (2) linkages of affordable housing objectives and land
38 use objectives with transportation systems.

39 (c) Any revision made after March 1, 2006, shall (1) take into
40 consideration risks associated with natural hazards, including, but not
41 limited to, flooding, high winds and wildfires; (2) identify the potential
42 impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure and property; and (3)
43 make recommendations for the siting of future infrastructure and
44 property development to minimize the use of areas prone to natural
45 hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding, high winds and
46 wildfires.

47 (d) Any revision made after July 1, 2005, shall describe the progress
48 towards achievement of the goals and objectives established in the
49 previously adopted state plan of conservation and development and
50 shall identify (1) areas where it is prudent and feasible (A) to have
51 compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed-use
52 development patterns and land reuse, and (B) to promote such
53 development patterns and land reuse, (2) priority funding areas
54 designated under section 16a-35c, and (3) corridor management areas
55 on either side of a limited access highway or a rail line. In designating
56 corridor management areas, the secretary shall make
57 recommendations that (A) promote land use and transportation
58 options to reduce the growth of traffic congestion; (B) connect
59 infrastructure and other development decisions; (C) promote
60 development that minimizes the cost of new infrastructure facilities
61 and maximizes the use of existing infrastructure facilities; and (D)
62 increase intermunicipal and regional cooperation.

63 (e) Any revision made after October 1, 2008, shall (1) for each policy
64 recommended (A) assign a priority; (B) estimate funding for
65 implementation and identify potential funding sources; (C) identify
66 each entity responsible for implementation; and (D) establish a
67 schedule for implementation; and (2) for each growth management
68 principle, determine three benchmarks to measure progress in
69 implementation of the principles, one of which shall be a financial
70 benchmark.

71 (f) Any revision made after October 1, 2009, shall take into
72 consideration the protection and preservation of Connecticut Heritage
73 Areas.

74 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Thereafter on or before March first in each revision year the
75 secretary shall complete a revision of the plan of conservation and
76 development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	16a-27

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Connecticut Heritage Areas program, to recognize Connecticut Heritage Areas, and to require such areas to be considered in the state plan of conservation and development.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]